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Leeds, Butte.

502. *Lesquerella Lunellii lutea* A. Nels. Bot. Gaz. 54: 149. (1912).

Pleasant lake, Dunsieith, Towner, Minot, Williston.

PHYSARIA A. Gray, Gen. Ill. x: 162. (1848).

503. *Physaria didymocarpa* (Hook.) A. Gray, l. c.

Vesicaria didymocarpa Hooker, Fl. Bor. Am. I: 49. pl. 16. (1830).

Medora (Bergman).

BIAURICULA Bubani, Fl. Pyr' III. 207. (1901).

Iberis Dillenius Gen. 6. (1719). Linn. Syst. (1735). also Gen. Pl. 192. (1737), 292. (1754. not Diosc.

The *Iberis* Dioscorides is an entirely different plant. Adanson (Fam. Pl. 2, p. 422. (1763) called the Linnaean Genus *Iberis* by the name *Arabis* Dod. Dodonaeus did not even give this name exclusively to plants of this genus. *Iberis* Democritus is *Lepidium Iberis* Linn. Sp. Pl. 645. (1753). In any case the *Iberis* (Dill.) Linn is inapplicable.

(To be continued.)

THE STORY OF OUR BIRDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR 1915.¹

BY BROTHER ALPHONSUS, C. S. C.

It affords me great pleasure to have the honor to address the members of the Chicago Ornithological Society. The regularity with which this society holds its meetings, and the methodical way in which its members study bird life are evident tokens of the vitality of the association. It seems to me that such manifest enthusiasm for so delightful a pursuit as ornithology should awaken a similar interest in many others. Indeed it seems to me that the influence of those who are so fortunate as to be admitted to this society should create a wide-spread desire to share the advantages they possess. Why should the Chicago Ornithological Society not feel that it has a great mission to the people of this city—to be instrumental in promoting a knowledge of

¹ A paper read before the Chicago Ornithological Society on Tuesday Evening, January 4, 1916.

bird life among old and young. Their prestige as ornithologists should easily fit the members of this society for such a mission.

In what way may this mission be best fulfilled? Undoubtedly I think the most effective way of achieving this praiseworthy object is to try to arouse not only interest, but even enthusiasm, for the study of ornithology among the teachers of our schools. Without doubt we can succeed in awakening both interest and enthusiasm for this branch of study in a body of men and women to whom the ideals of life make an especially strong appeal. And among the ideals that should enlist the devotion of every refined person is the visible expression of the beautiful in the life of our native birds. To make the acquaintance of the feathered denizen of our fields and forests is to be made like them—happy the live-long day.

Here then is the great mission for the Chicago Ornithological Society. Why should its members not take the initiative in every thing that can promote the study of birds among the teachers of our schools? By lectures the members can show the importance of this branch both from an economic and an aesthetic standpoint. By leading expeditions out into the country these naturalists can create a genuine enthusiasm for the study of the living bird in its native haunts. And after all, the chief object of all our efforts lies in this one point—to arouse enthusiasm. If we succeed in this, all else must be successful.

It may not be amiss to give you my own experience in doing what I could to create both interest and enthusiasm in the study of our birds. Besides what I may have done toward this object by the publication of my articles on bird life in *THE AMERICAN MIDLAND NATURALIST*, I had last autumn the opportunity of guiding the teachers of the South Bend Training School in their study of ornithology. Every Thursday afternoon I met the young ladies of this institution at 4 p. m., and led them through fields and groves on the banks of St. Joseph River. These trips continued until the weather grew unfavorable for further observations. Next April we propose to resume our study, and hope to do much better work, for spring is always more suitable than autumn for finding a great abundance of bird life.

So far what I have said to you is mostly by way of suggestion. Men of experience know the value of wise suggestion and always welcome it. If I may offer advice at any time to the members

of the Chicago Ornithological Society it will be gladly given. We who are devoted to the study of ornithology should feel that we are in truth members of a fraternity, and should be desirous of helping one another as best we may. Encouragement is probably the most helpful thing we can give; so let us give it gladly.

I shall now do my best to relate to you the story of our birds as their lives were revealed to me throughout the year, 1915. And what a fascinating story it was. Daily did I watch the movements and the habits of the many species of birds that passed or stayed near my Indiana home. Through bleak winter and balmy spring, through sweet summer and serene autumn, the birds are always with us. To become acquainted with them is to love them. They are truly friends, for which we may feel affection.

In winter the Snowbirds fly before us darting at one another; the Blue Jay displays his beautiful coat as he passes from tree to tree; flocks of Crows are started in fields or woods, and their distant cawing is characteristic at this season; Tree Sparrows, Nuthatches, Chickadees and Brown Creepers may be seen not unfrequently on winter days. In March the first notes of the Song Sparrow and the Bluebird are the joy of the bird-lover; the first Robin is noted by every man and child; the loud whistle of the Meadowlark rings in our fields; Blackbirds appear, and are not unwelcome; April and May follow, when bird life reaches its climax, and then begins to recede. The month of June finds most of the birds rearing their first brood; in July families of birds are found feeding; in August nearly all the singing ceases, and the autumn migration begins. By September the migration is in full swing, and many species not seen since spring reappear; October is much like September, but seldom gives the diligent observer more than 50 species; November marks the close of the autumn migration, hardly ever affording as many as 25 species. With the advent of December, our feathered friends are so few that most people think there are none to be found.

Our story starts in December, 1914, in which the following species were found: Crow, Blue Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-headed Woodpecker, Goldfinch, Downy Woodpecker, Song Sparrow, Screech Owl, Brown Creeper, Tree Sparrow, Snowbird, Pine Grosbeak, Chickadee, and Vesper Sparrow. The total number of species seen was 14.

The species that were most abundant in December were the Crow, found on 22 days; the Blue Jay, with 29 records; the White-breasted Nuthatch, seen on 21 days; the Red-headed Woodpecker, recorded on 25 days. Species that were less abundant were the Downy Woodpecker, with 12 records; the Brown Creeper, with 10; the Snowbird, with 7. The least abundant species were the Tree Sparrow, recorded 4 times; the Song Sparrow, 7 times; the Vesper Sparrow, once—on the 25th—the only winter record I have ever made of this species; the Goldfinch, 5 times; the Screech Owl, the Pine Grosbeak, the Chickadee, the Hairy Woodpecker, each recorded once.

The Pine Grosbeak was found on Dec. 4th in a mulberry tree just in the rear of Corby Hall at Notre Dame. A number of English Sparrows were curiously watching the bird. Other records of this species were made on October 22, and November 6, 1914. On the October date a pair of these Grosbeaks was seen. The male was reddish on the head and back; the female, mottled with brownish and lighter; the call-note is distinctive.

The Vesper Sparrow, recorded on Dec. 25, was flying in a row of maple trees, and out on the snow, where some weeds stood higher than the snow. Here the bird ate some of the seeds of the weeds. The peculiar flight of this species make its identity certain to the trained observer.

The Song Sparrows, found in December, were always near one of the lakes at Notre Dame. Sometimes the bird's call-note was heard from a small island in a frozen lake; but most frequently the Song Sparrow was heard or seen near an open runway leading to an ice-house. Usually the observer hears this sparrow's call-note before seeing the bird; when silent its identification may be known by the bird's peculiar flight.

In January, 1915, the species seen were: Crow, Blue Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-headed Woodpecker, Goldfinch, Downy Woodpecker, Song Sparrow, Screech Owl, Brown Creeper, Tree Sparrow, Snowbird, Chickadee, Hairy Woodpecker, Cardinal. The total number of species seen was 14.

In this month the Blue Jay had 29 records; the Crow had 22; the White-breasted Nuthatch had 20; the Brown Creeper had 18; the Snowbird had 17; the Red-headed Woodpecker and the Tree Sparrow had 14. Species having fewer records were: Downy Woodpecker, seen on 9 days; the Chickadee and Cardinal,

found on 3 days; the Song Sparrow and Goldfinch, observed twice; the Screech Owl and Hairy Woodpecker, each with a single record.

In the winter months the habits of the Brown Creeper may be studied to advantage. Among these the creeping of the bird is most interesting. Usually it will fly to the base of a tree, and begin to ascend on one side—sometimes going almost to the top without deviating but a few inches in its course. Then it may fly down again to the base of the same tree and ascend on the opposite side. At other times the bird is quite irregular in its method of ascending. A very faint call-note will attract the attention of the observer, who depends on this to be made aware of the bird's presence. I once saw a Brown Creeper go up the two-story side of a brick house to the roof, the bird losing its hold twice.

The species seen in February, 1915 were: Crow, Blue Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-headed Woodpecker, Goldfinch, Downy Woodpecker, Song Sparrow, Brown Creeper, Tree Sparrow, Snowbird, Chickadee, Cardinal, Bluebird, Robin, Killdeer, Herring Gull. The total number of species seen was 16, and total for the three winter months was 20, the largest record I have yet made.

As in January, the Blue Jay has most records in February—24; the Crow came next, with 23. The Brown Creeper had 12 records; the Snowbird had 9; the White-breasted Nuthatch and the Red-headed Woodpecker each had 6; the Song Sparrow had 7; the Tree Sparrow had 11; the Robin had 8. Species with very few records were: Bluebird, with 3; Cardinal, and Herring Gull, with 2; Killdeer, Chickadee, and Goldfinch, with one.

February of this year, after the 12th, proved an unusually interesting month to the bird-lover. Robins and Bluebirds appeared on the 13th, which was a warm, bright day, and the notes of both species were heard. On the 20th the songs of the Bluebird and Song Sparrow were heard. On this day I also heard, for the first time in all my observations, the song of the Brown Creeper, which was low and rapid and pleasing. By the 21st of the month Song Sparrows were singing continuously—something I do not remember hearing so early ever before.

The winter of 1914-15 showed an increase in the distribution of the Crow, Blue Jay, Brown Creeper, and Song Sparrow; a decrease, for the White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-headed Wood-

pecker, Downy Woodpecker, Snowbird, Tree Sparrow, and Chickadee. Three species seen last winter, but not this, were: Bronzed Grackle, Meadowlark, and Snowflake.

The March records for 1915 totalled 19, which was 11 fewer than those of 1914. The eleven species not found March, 1915 were: White-breasted Nuthatch, Goldfinch, Screech Owl, Chickadee, Hairy Woodpecker, Cardinal, Snowflake, Sparrow Hawk, Purple Finch, Sapsucker, Phoebe.

The latest record in February for the White-breasted Nuthatch was the 27th; no record occurred in April; the bird reappeared on the 1st of May, and disappeared until June 20th. Barring the one May record, we have the unprecedentedly long absence of 111 days. The spring migration of this species has always been exceedingly interesting to me, but I am at a loss to know what can be the determining cause of its withdrawal as spring approaches.

Another species that is irregularly seen in winter and early spring is the Goldfinch. This year the only record in February was on the 23d. After this date the species failed to appear until April 13th—an absence of 48 days. Who can explain this irregularity?

The species recorded in March, 1915 were: Crow, Blue Jay, Red-headed Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Song Sparrow, Brown Creeper, Tree Sparrow, Snowbird, Meadowlark, Bluebird, Robin, Killdeer, Herring Gull, Canada Goose, Red-winged Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle, Flicker, Kingfisher, Cowbird.

The most abundant species in March were: Crow, Blue Jay, Snowbird, Meadowlark, Bluebird, Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, and Bronzed Grackle. Less abundant species were: Downy Woodpecker, with 5 records; Herring Gull, with 6; Tree Sparrow, with 9; Red-headed Woodpecker and Killdeer with 13. The least abundant species were: Brown Creeper, Canada Goose, Flicker, Kingfisher, and Cowbird, each with one record.

Dates of migration in March were: Meadowlark on the 3d; Canada Goose, on the 9th; Red-winged Blackbird and Bronzed Grackle, on the 12th; Flicker, on the 19th; Kingfisher, on the 30th; Cowbird, on the 31st. Against these seven migrants there were 18, in March, 1914.

The following disjointed observations, made in March, 1915 may be of interest: March 3.—Mating song of Blue Jay was

heard—low and sweet.—March 5.—A snowstorm; only the Blue Jay was seen.—March 6.—Tree Sparrows numerous in a garden.—First jingling note of the Snowbird.—March 7.—First note of the Robin in this month.—March 14.—First loud calling-note of the Red-headed Woodpecker.—March 15.—Crows carrying food.—March 19.—First Red-headed Woodpecker out of woods; in winter this species is confined to woods.—First note of the Flicker.—March 20.—Herring Gull fishing in a small lake.—March 23.—Bluebirds, Robins, Meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbirds, in full song.

The species seen in April were: Crow, Blue Jay, Red-headed Woodpecker, Goldfinch, Downy Woodpecker, Song Sparrow, Brown Creeper, Tree Sparrow, Snowbird, Chickadee, Meadowlark, Bluebird, Robin, Killdeer, Red-winged Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle, Flicker, Kingfisher, Cowbird, Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Towhee, Phoebe, Sparrow Hawk, Mourning Dove, Vesper Sparrow, Sapsucker, Kingbird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Chipping Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Chimney Swift, Myrtle Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Spotted Sandpiper, House Wren, Baltimore Oriole, Warbling Vireo, Pine Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Catbird, Yellow Palm Warbler, Purple Martin, Bobolink. The total number of species seen was 47.

Species that had few records in April were: Brown Creeper, with 9; Spotted Sandpiper and House Wren, with 8; Downy Woodpecker, Baltimore Oriole, Warbling Vireo, with 7; Sapsucker, with 6; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Chimney Swift, with 5; Tree Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, White-throated Sparrow, with 4; Fox Sparrow, Pine Warbler, Catbird, Yellow Palm Warbler, Sparrow Hawk, with 2; Chickadee, Yellow Warbler, Kingbird, Purple Martin, Bobolink, with one.

The dates of migration in April were: Field Sparrow, on the 4th; Fox Sparrow, Towhee, Phoebe, Sparrow Hawk, Mourning Dove, on the 5th; Vesper Sparrow, on the 6th; Sapsucker, on the 7th; Golden-crowned Kinglet and Hermit Thrush, on the 9th; Brown Thrasher and Chipping Sparrow, on the 13th; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Chimney Swift, Myrtle Warbler, on the 19th; White-throated Sparrow, on the 20th; Spotted Sandpiper, on the 21st; House Wren, on the 23d; Baltimore Oriole, Pine Warbler, on the 24th; Yellow Warbler, on the 26th; Catbird, Yellow Palm Warbler, Kingbird, on the 28th; Purple Martin, on the 29th;

Bobolink, on the 30th. The total number of migrants in April, 1915 was 26. For this month, in 1914, there were 28 migrants.

Some of the more notable of my observations in April, 1915 were the following: April 7, loud note of the Phoebe.—April 13, Goldfinches in summer plumage.—Field Sparrows in full song.—April 16, Mourning Doves building.—April 17, a Brown Thrasher singing for ten minutes in the afternoon.—April 19, Vesper Sparrow in full song.—April 23, one Snowbird on the ground in a cemetery; the last April record for this species was on the 26th.—April 30, Bobolink singing in a tree top at very brief intervals. I heard the song some distance away as I approached the bird. This was my earliest date for hearing the song of the Bobolink.

The species recorded in May, 1915 were: Crow, Blue Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-headed Woodpecker, Goldfinch, Downy Woodpecker, Song Sparrow, Screech Owl, Snowbird, Meadowlark, Bluebird, Robin, Killdeer, Red-winged Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle, Flicker, Kingfisher, Cowbird, Field Sparrow, Towhee, Phoebe, Mourning Dove, Vesper Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, Blue-headed Vireo, Brown Thrasher, Chipping Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Chimney Swift, Myrtle Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Spotted Sandpiper, House Wren, Baltimore Oriole, Warbling Vireo, Pine Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Catbird, Yellow Palm Warbler, Kingbird, Bobolink, Screech Owl, Water Thrush, Barn Swallow, Black-throated Green Warbler, Orchard Oriole, Crested Flycatcher, White-crowned Sparrow, Yellow-throated Vireo, Indigo Bird, Gnatcatcher, Blackburnian Warbler, Wood Pewee, Red-eyed Vireo, Dickcissel, Greater Yellowlegs, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Alder Flycatcher, Cedarbird, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Redstart, Owenbird, Black and White Warbler, Maryland Yellowthroat, Tennessee Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Scarlet Tanager, Lesser Yellowlegs, Bank Swallow, Mourning Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Nighthawk, Canadian Warbler, Wilson Warbler. Whip-poor-will, Hummingbird. The total number of species seen was 83.

The rare species in May were: Bay-breasted Warbler, Ovenbird, with 9 records; Yellow Palm and Chestnut-sided Warblers, with 8; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, White-crowned Sparrow, with 7; Barn Swallow, Scarlet Tanager, with 6; Bluebird, Yellow-throated

Vireo, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Maryland Yellowthroat, Tennessee Warbler, Least Flycatcher. Black-poll Warbler, Nighthawk, with 5; Towhee, Magnolia Warbler, Black and White Warbler, with 4; Blue-headed Vireo, Alder Flycatcher, Hummingbird, 3; Snowbird, Pine Warbler, with 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker, Screech Owl, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Thrush, Gnatcatcher, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Cedarbird, Cape May Prairie, Mourning, Canadian, Wilson, Warblers, Whip-poor-will, with one record.

The May migrants were: Downy Woodpecker, departed on the 29th; Hermit Thrush, departed on the 31st; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, departed on the 10th; Myrtle Warbler, departed on the 20th; White-throated Sparrow, departed on 23d; Yellow Palm Warbler, departed on the 22d; Black-throated Green Warbler arrived on the 5th and departed on the 24th; White-crowned Sparrow, arrived on the 9th and departed on the 21st; Indigo Bird and Gnatcatcher, arrived on the 10th; Blackburnian Warbler, Wood Pewee, Red-eyed Vireo, arrived on the 11th; Dickcissel and Greater Yellowlegs arrived on the 12th; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, arrived on the 13th; Alder Flycatcher and Cedarbird, arrived on the 14th; Bay-breasted, Black-throated Blue, Cape May, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Prairie Warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Redstart, Ovenbird, arrived on the 15th; Black and White Warbler, Maryland Yellowthroat, Tennessee Warbler, arrived on the 16th; Least Flycatcher, Scarlet Tanager, Lesser Yellowlegs, arrived on the 17th; Mourning and Black-poll Warblers, Nighthawk, arrived on the 19th; Canadian Warbler, arrived on the 21st; Wilson Warbler, on the 22nd; Whip-poor-will, on the 23; Hummingbird, on the 25th.

Conclusion next number.

CRITICAL NOTES OF NEW AND OLD GENERA OF PLANTS.—VII.

BY J. A. NIEUWLAND.

NUMMULARIA.

The mycologists in a number of instances seem to have been unfortunate in selecting a considerable number of hitherto uncorrected names which are invalidated by previous use. In the